



## Guide to Local Activities

*We welcome you to Naples and the Vineyards! Naples is a wonderful place to visit and live. Our coast has everything you can possibly want from pristine beaches and island getaways to top-rated golf courses, world-class fishing and boating, a plethora fine-dining and shopping experiences, and abundant parks teeming with unique and magnificent native wildlife. There is never a shortage of things to do in Naples and Southwest Florida. Here is a list of only of few of the many attractions our coast offers.*

### Destinations / Attractions

1. **Naples Botanical Garden (Naples Botanical Gardens)** - themed gardens that represent the culture and flora of the tropics. Often features art exhibits and musical acts: <https://www.naplesgarden.org/>
2. **Edison Ford Winter Estates (Fort Myers)** - Winter homes of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford, botanical gardens, Edison's Botanic Research Laboratory and the Edison Ford Museum. Numerous artifacts and collection of Edison's inventions: <http://www.edisonfordwinterestates.org/>
3. **3<sup>rd</sup> Street South (Naples)** - "Glamour and good times since the 1930s" - restaurants, shopping, entertainment, events: <http://thirdstreetsouth.com/>
4. **The Conservancy of Southwest Florida (Naples)** - Organization committed to protecting Southwest Florida's wildlife and habitats - electric boat tours, wildlife hospital, events, guest speakers, nature walks, eco-cruises: <https://www.conservancy.org/>
5. **5th Avenue Shops (Naples)** - Downtown Naples area for dining, shops, theatre, entertainment and much more: <http://www.fifthavenuesouth.com/>
6. **Naples Zoo (Naples)** - Located in the heart of Naples with over 30 exhibits: <http://napleszoo.org/>
7. **Naples Fishing Pier (Naples)** - Naples landmark and popular attraction. <http://www.naplespier.com/>
8. **Tin City (Naples)** - Historic waterfront shops and restaurants: <http://www.tin-city.com/>
9. **The River District (Downtown Fort Myers)** - Dining, shopping, live music, events, art galleries set in historic downtown Fort Myers along the Caloosahatchee River: <http://www.myriverdistrict.com/>
10. **Matlacha Art District (Matlacha)** - Colorful and artsy little fishing village located on Matlacha Island. Art galleries, shops, restaurants and entertainment: <http://www.artswfl.com/art-stops/matlacha/an-introduction-to-matlacha/an-introduction-to-matlacha>

11. **Marco Island** – Northern most island of the Ten Thousand Islands; known for its many canals for boating, shops, restaurants, galleries, fishing spots, and white sand beaches: <http://marco-island-florida.com/>
12. **Downtown Boca Grande (Boca Grande)** – Small historic town with sugary white sand beaches, world-class Tarpon fishing, restaurants, shops, and galleries. Located on Gasparilla Island: <http://www.bocagrandechamber.com/>
13. **Fort Myers Beach (Fort Myers Beach)** – Miles of beaches with tropical bars, restaurants, live music, shopping and hotels: <http://www.fortmyersbeach.org/>
14. **Yacht Club (Cape Coral)** – “Cape Coral’s Tropical Showcase” – historic public park set on the Caloosahatchee River. Built in 1958 with fishing pier, restaurant, tennis, racquet ball, and events: [http://www.capecoral.net/departments/parks\\_and\\_recreationhome/yacht\\_club\\_community\\_center/index.php](http://www.capecoral.net/departments/parks_and_recreationhome/yacht_club_community_center/index.php)
15. **Tarpon Point Marina & Shops (Cape Coral)** – Marina with restaurants, shopping, and art galleries - <http://www.tarponpoint.com/index.php/the-marina>
16. **St James City (Pine Island)** – Funky little laid back town with Old Florida feel – located on the southern tip of Pine Island: <http://www.saintjamescity.org/>
17. **Cabbage Key (Lee County)** – 100-acres of underdeveloped island with famous Dollar Bill’s Bar. Accessible only by boat, sea plane or water-taxi: <http://www.visitflorida.com/en-us/cities/cabbage-key.html/>
18. **Cape Harbour Marina & Shops (Cape Coral)** – Restaurants and shopping at a marina setting, just off of mile mark 92 : <http://capeharbour.com/>
19. **Randell Research Center Archeological Park (Pine Island)** – 67 acre archeological site of ancient shell mounds from the Calusa natives. <https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/index.php/rrc/home/>
20. **Sanibel-Captiva Island (Lee County)** – Tropical island with miles of beaches, great shelling, shops, restaurants, bike rentals and trails, and nature trails. <https://sanibel-captiva.org/>
21. **Everglades Wonder Garden (Bonita Springs)** – Iconic Old Florida tourist attraction with botanical gardens and “wildlife wonders of Southwest Florida”. Established in 1936. <http://evergladeswondergardens.com/>
22. **Everglades City (Collier County)** Old Florida town that serves as the “Gateway to the 10,000 Islands”- guided boat tours, kayaking, hiking, canoeing, fishing tours, air-boat excursions, restaurants: <http://www.florida-everglades.com/evercity/home.htm>

## Performing Arts

1. **Artis Naples (Naples)**- World-class performing arts, including concerts, performances, symphonies, exhibitions, and educational events: <http://artisnaples.org/>
2. **Gulfshore Playhouse (Naples)** – Professional theatre with actors and designers from New York and all over the country: <http://www.gulfshoreplayhouse.org/>
3. **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall (Fort Myers)** – Musical acts, Broadway shows, comics, Symphonies <https://www.bbmannpah.com/>

## State, County, and National Parks

1. **Big Cypress National Park (Collier County)** - 729,000 acres of "Freshwater to the Sea" native habitat - Bicycle & hiking trails, bird watching, canoeing/kayaking, hunting: <https://www.nps.gov/bicy/index.htm>
2. **Collier-Seminole State Park (Collier County)** - National historic site of "Bay City Walking Dredge" and home of one of the largest mangrove swamps in the world - Nature trails & canoe rentals: <https://www.floridastateparks.org/park/Collier-Seminole>
3. **Fakahatchee-Strand State Park (Collier County)** - "the Amazon of North America", thousands year old swamp forest with trails to see abundant native wildlife: <https://www.floridastateparks.org/park/Fakahatchee-Strand>
4. **Koreshan State Historic Site (Village of Estero)** - Site of historic cult known as the "Koreshans". Bamboo-lined trails, canoeing, kayaking and self-guided tours of the 1900 historic Koreshan settlement: <https://www.floridastateparks.org/park/Koreshan>
5. **Rookery Bay National Aquatic Preserve (Collier County)** - 110,000 acres of pristine mangrove forest, uplands and protected waters located at the northern end of the Ten Thousand Islands - boat tours, kayak tours, birding, hiking <https://rookerybay.org/>
6. **Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve (Fort Myers)** - Slough Preserve with over 3,500 acres of intermingled wetland and upland ecosystems, including old-growth Cypress swamps. Mostly shaded elevated and fully accessible boardwalk (1.2 miles long): <https://www.leegov.com/parks/facility?fid=0105>
7. **Lover's Key State Park (Lee County)** - Two mile long beach that is home to home to West Indian manatees, bottlenose dolphins, roseate spoonbills, marsh rabbits, and bald eagles - shelling, swimming, picnicking sunbathing, hiking and biking trails: <https://www.floridastateparks.org/park/Lovers-Key>
8. **Ten Thousand Islands National Park (Collier County)** - "Labyrinth of water and mangroves" with 1.5 million acres of South Florida - camping, birding, guided tours, fishing, kayaking, boating: <https://www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/tenthousandislands.htm>
9. **Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park (Naples)** - "One of the most pristine stretch of beach in the world" - sunbathe, snorkel the reef, hike, bird-watch, fish, picnic and search for seashells: <https://www.floridastateparks.org/park/Delnor-Wiggins>
10. **Four Mile Ecological Park (Cape Coral)** - 365-acre park along Caloosahatchee River that offers an elevated walking trail through a mangrove forest: [http://www.capecoral.net/departments/parks\\_and\\_recreationhome/four\\_mile\\_cove\\_eco\\_preserve.php](http://www.capecoral.net/departments/parks_and_recreationhome/four_mile_cove_eco_preserve.php)
11. **Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge (Collier County)** - 26,400 acre refuge for Florida panther with two hiking trails: [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/florida\\_panther/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/florida_panther/)
12. **Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge (Sanibel)** - Federal Wilderness Area and world famous refuge for spectacular migratory bird populations - guided tram tours, walking and biking paths: [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/jn\\_ding\\_darling/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/jn_ding_darling/)
13. **Corkscrew Regional Ecological Watershed (Lee & Collier County)** - Largest intact watershed in Florida with 60,000 acres with numerous hiking trails in a variety of freshwater ecosystems: <https://www.crewtrust.org/>

14. **Mound Key Archeological State Park (Lee County)** - Historical site and ceremonial center of the Calusa Indians - Hiking and nature trails. Only accessible by boat or kayak: <https://www.crewtrust.org/>
15. **Cayo Costa State Park (Lee County)** - Natural and nearly untouched barrier island accessible by boat or public ferry only - Shelling, sunbathing, hiking, cabins, bike trails, picnicking, fishing, camping: <https://www.floridastateparks.org/things-to-do/activities>
16. **Information on hiking trails in SWFL:** <http://floridahikes.com/southwest-florida>
17. **Information on paddling trails in SWFL:** <http://www.floridapaddlingtrails.com/>
18. **List of Collier County parks and facilities:** <http://www.colliergov.net/home/showdocument?id=31201>

## Shopping / Entertainment

1. **Mercato (North Naples)** - <http://www.mercatoshops.com/>
2. **Waterside Shops (Naples)** - <http://www.watersideshops.com/>
3. **3<sup>rd</sup> Street South (Naples)** - "Glamour and good times since the 1930s" - restaurants, shopping, entertainment, events: <http://thirdstreetsouth.com/>
4. **Coastland Center Mall (Naples)** - <https://www.coastlandcenter.com/en.html>
5. **5th Avenue Shops (Naples)** - Downtown Naples area for dining, shops, theatre, entertainment and much more: <http://www.fifthavenuesouth.com/>
6. **Venetian Village (Naples)** - Waterfront dining and shopping: <http://venetianvillage.com/>
7. **Coconut Point (Estero)** <http://www.simon.com/mall/coconut-point>
8. **Miromar Outlets (Estero)** - <http://www.miromaroutlets.com/>
9. **Gulf Coast Town Center (Fort Myers)** - <http://www.gulfcoasttowncenter.com/>
10. **Promenade at Bonita Bay (Bonita Springs)** - <https://promenadeshops.com/>

## Beaches

**VISITOR Beach Parking Permits** - You may purchase a Collier County Beach pass at Vineyards Community Park located at 6231 Arbor Boulevard. (239) 353-9669 - Cost is \$50. Collier County beach and boat launch info: <http://www.colliergov.net/your-government/divisions-f-r/parks-and-recreation/beaches-and-boats>

1. **Delnor-Wiggins Beach and State Park (Naples)** - 11135 Gulf Shore Dr -Park entrance is at end of Bluebill Ave (Same street as 111<sup>th</sup> Ave or Immokalee Rd). There are numerous parking lots and bathroom facilities. You may also park for free at Connor Park with parking sticker. Short walk to beach over a small bridge from Connor Park.
2. **Barefoot Beach Preserve County Park (Bonita Springs)** - Barefoot Beach Road off Bonita Beach Road. Facilities include 346 parking spaces, nature trail, showers and a concession stand. Handicap access.

3. **Clam Pass Park (Naples)** - Intersection of Seagate Drive and Clayton Road. 180 parking spaces, 35 acres of coastal habitat and preserves, and kayak launch. There is a boardwalk where you can enjoy a quiet nature walk.
4. **North Gulf Shore Beach Access (Naples)** - Located between Seagate Condominiums and North Gulf Shore Boulevard. Parking is located at the end of Seagate Drive.
5. **Vanderbilt Beach Park (Naples)** - Located at the end of Vanderbilt Beach Road. New parking garage with 375 parking spaces. One of the most popular locations!
6. **Naples Municipal Beach & Fishing Pier (Naples)** - Beach and historic pier in downtown Naples. Very popular attraction. (25 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue South):  
<http://www.naplespier.com/>
7. **South Beach Access (Marco Island)** - located at the intersection of South Collier Boulevard and Swallow Avenue. 70 parking spaces and restrooms.
8. **Tigertail Beach (Marco Island)** - located at the end of Hernando Drive. Beach toys and chairs for rent, restrooms, showers and a concession stand. Picnic tables, education kiosk, childrens' playground and a butterfly garden. 32 acres of wildlife, lagoon and boardwalks.
9. **Sanibel-Captiva Beaches (Lee County)** - There are numerous beaches on Sanibel-Captiva Island. World renowned for great shelling. List of beaches can be found here:  
<http://www.sanibeltrails.com/sanibel-beach-access.aspx>
10. **Bunche Beach (Fort Myers)** - (18201 John Morris Road - Sandy beach, mangrove forests, and salt flats containing a wide variety of wildlife for viewing. Designated as a Great Florida Birding Trail site: <https://www.leegov.com/parks/facility?fid=0025>
11. **Fort Myers Beach (Fort Myers Beach)** - Miles of beaches with tropical bars, restaurants, live music, shopping and hotels: <http://www.fortmyersbeach.org/>
12. **Lover's Key State Park (Lee County)** - Located on County Road 865 between Fort Myers Beach and Bonita Beach in Lee County. Two mile long beach that is home to home to West Indian manatees, bottlenose dolphins, roseate spoonbills, marsh rabbits, and bald eagles - shelling, swimming, picnicking sunbathing, hiking and biking trails: <https://www.floridastateparks.org/park/Lovers-Key>
13. **Dog Beach (Fort Myers Beach)** - 8800 Estero Blvd. Dog-friendly beach and great place for your dog to play with other dogs. No toilets, only portables. Must clean up after your dog:  
<http://www.leegov.com/parks/facility?fid=0036>

## Arenas / Stadiums

1. **Germain Arena (Estero)** - Southwest Florida's premier arena, hosting numerous concerts, NHL, NBA, and USBL games, Everblades hockey, Disney on Ice, Comic Acts, and much more:  
<http://germainarena.com/>
2. **Jet Blue Park (Fort Myers)** - Spring Training home for the Boston Red Sox:  
[http://boston.redsox.mlb.com/bos/ballpark/jetblue\\_park.jsp](http://boston.redsox.mlb.com/bos/ballpark/jetblue_park.jsp)
3. **Hammond Stadium (Fort Myers)** - Home to Fort Myers Miracle Baseball and Minnesota Twins spring training: <https://www.leegov.com/parks/facility?fid=0225>

*(Please contact me if you would like a digital copy with links to these attractions).*